空色ガールフレンド　リカチ

Sky-colored Girlfriend

C O N T E N T S

She-Romeo / Little girl [Romeo] —— 005

Middle School Diary /Blue Diary —— 019

The Secret / (The) forbidden —— 033

Romeo and Juliet —— 049

Blue Mind / Clear Heart —— 069

The Honeymoon / Honey moon —— 083

The Sky's Whereabouts / [lost] Sky-blue —— 097

Key of Heart / (Be) locked up in Love —— 111

*The Promise / for sorairo-girlfriend** —— 127

an afterword / All of you... —— 145

In grade school
I always got more chocolate than any of the boys on Valentine's Day—
When I was a child, the anime video my aunt showed me...
...was the tale of a princess who cross-dressed as a boy.**
I like pants more than skirts.
My favorite color is blue.
I prefer black school bags over red.*

* Japanese grade school students carry schoolbags called "randsel". Traditionally, girls were given solid red randsel and boys black ones although nowadays, they come in all different colors and patterns

** This is a reference to Osamu Tezuka's "Princess Knight" series

That's me—
HIROMI~!
That girl—...
A TRANSFER STUDENT, HUH—
BUT THERE CAN'T BE ANYONE OUT THERE COOLER THAN YOU, SO I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY.
RIKO AND THE OTHERS ARE HOPING FOR SOMEONE HOT, HIROMI,
...
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GET A TRANSFER STUDENT TODAY.
YO.
'MORNING'

MY NAME IS KASHIWAGI JULI.
...was as cute as an angel,
as captivating as a demon—...
—She would end up greatly influenc-ing my life—
She-Romeo
Little girl [Romeo]

YOU'VE GOT SUCH PRETTY HAIR, KASHIWAGI-SAN~
SUCH A DELICATE FACE, TOO~!
I BET YOU'D BE SCOUTED IF YOU WENT TO HARAJUKU —
IS IT TRUE YOU'VE LIVED ABROAD?
WOW, SHE WAS MOBBED IN NO TIME
WELL, RIKO'S GROUP ARE ALL POSERS, Y'KNOW
AND THEY'VE WANTED SOMEONE FLASHY FOR A LONG TIME, SO IT'S EVEN MORE POSER-Y.
Why don'cha join our group?
RIGHT
BUT, Y'KNOW, I DON'T THINK SHE'S SAID A WORD YET ..
WELL, WE'VE GOT HIROMI IN OUR GROUP, SO WHO CARES ABOUT ANY TRANSFER STUDENT?
? WHADDYA MEAN?
YOU'RE OUR "BELLE," HIROMI, THAT'S WHAT—!!
BAM
Jump

GEEZ! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M IGNORING YOU!?
YOU'RE SUPER-ANNOYING WITH ALL YOUR QUESTIONS!
UNLESS YOU'RE BLIND, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT I'M CUTE
SO STOP REPEATING IT.
AND FYI, I HATE PEOPLE CROWDING ME, GOT THAT!!
AWW, SHE'S COMPLETELY ISOLATED NOW
I KINDA FEEL BAD FOR HER
SHE SAID SHE'S FINE BEING ALONE, SO IT'S HER OWN FAULT
NO MATTER HOW CUTE YOU LOOK, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SHUNNED IF YOUR PERSONALITY SUCKS
SHALL WE IGNORE HER TOO?
LET'S NOT.

I HATE THAT KIND OF CRAP.
I-
I'M KIDDING, HIROMI~
I WON'T IGNORE HER, I SWEAR~
ALL RIGHT THEN,
PAIR UP AND DO SOME CALIS-THENICS, OKAY—
LET'S PAIR UP, HIROMI!
GO BE KOTOKO'S PARTNER, MAKI.
HUHH !?
Solo..
ポツン…

SENSEI SAID TO PAIR UP, RIGHT?
WHAT!?
PITY?
GENER-OSITY?
YOU BUSY-BODY!
OH!
WHAT-EVER.
C'MON.
YOU'RE FREE TO THINK WHATEVER YOU WANT, AND DO AS YOU PLEASE...
...BUT YOU GOTTA DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO.

WHOA, SHE'S LIGHT...
SO DELICATE, TOO~ ALMOST FRAGILE ...
OH, BUT SHE DOES HAVE BODY HEAT...
OTHER-WISE YOU'D THINK SHE WAS A DOLL
HER HAIR BRUSHING AGAINST MY NECK. IT'S LIKE...
...
OK, NO MORE CALIS-THENICS~
LATER
LET'S SPLIT INTO GROUPS OF 5 AND PLAY SOME BASKET-BALL
HIROMI~!

I ASKED TO SWITCH.
—...I THINK YOU'RE IN THE WRONG SEAT?
I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY...
I wonder what's she planning to tell the teacher
OH... I SEE.
I KNOW.
You introd yourself earlier, remember?
I'M JULI.
klonk
カリ
ゴリ
SO YOUR NAME'S HIROMI, HUH.

HUH!?
IS IT OKAY IF I CALL YOU ROMEO?
WELL, YOUR HAIR STYLE'S SORTA... WELL, ROMEO-ESQUE...
At least, based on the picture books I've read!!
...AND SINCE MY NAME'S "JULI"— AS IN "JULIET."
SO?
IS IT OKAY?
COULD THIS BE...
—SURE, I GUESS—

THANK YOU, ROMÉO!!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW YOU!!
—That night, in my dreams...
...I relived something from when I was a kid—

AUNTIE ICHIKO...
I WANNA BE A PRINCE ONE DAY, TOO~!
WHAT, AGAIN ~?
YOU REALLY LIKE THAT ANIME, DON'T YOU, HIRO-CHAN~
AND, I WANNA END UP TOGETHER WITH THAT CUTE WITCH GIRL.
HUH~?
HMM, LET'S SEE... WELL, SHE'S A PRINCESS CROSS-DRESSING AS A BOY, SO... I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE
Then the scene completely shifted, where I was suddenly dressed like a prince, and—
BUT THEN I'D BECOME A PRINCESS— I WANNA BE A PRINCE!
HUH~? NOT THE PRINCE FROM THE NEIGHBORING KINGDOM?
OH~.. I SEE..

ROMEO.
...I was with my beautiful witch girlfriend
—...
Blink
...
HIROMI-!
'MORNING!

'MORNING.
Y-YEAH?
OH, HIROMI, YOU'VE GOT BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES.
O-OH, UM...
WHATEVER COULD THAT GIRL HAVE BEEN THINKING, HUH!!
—TO SUDDENLY GLOM ONTO YOU LIKE THAT!
THE BOYS ARE ALL TALKING ABOUT YOU TWO "BEING LEZBOS"...
IT'S SO ANNOYING!
AND JUST BECAUSE YOU SHOWED HER SOME KINDNESS DURING GYM CLASS!
SHE'S STRANGE!
QUIT INSULTING HER.
Speaking of being strange—
BUT...
I am, too...
OH!...

'Cause I—
actually enjoy it.
Being called that—
...by that pretty and cute little thing—
'MORNING, ROMEO!

Middle School Diary
Blue Diary

SIT HERE, HIROMI.
THIS IS YOUR SEAT, ROMEO!!
...
Hmph
フンッ
...
I'M SITTING HERE.

...has completely fallen in with my friends.
HIROMI LOVES THEM
NO THANKS—.
MY FAMILY'S SECRET RECIPE SWEET OMELET!*
WHAT IS IT?
WANNA TRY ONE, JULI-CHAN?
Juli—
THEN SURE.
* Japanese sweet egg omelets are a traditional lunch box item, are usually rolled into logs and cut into small bricks
...except for my closest friend, Kaorida Maki—
I-I REALLY DON'T MIND.. MAKI...
SCOWL
ISN'T TRYING ONE SIMPLY BE-CAUSE HIROMI LIKES THEM, A BIT RUDE?
...

HIROMI'S PARTNER...
...IS ME!!
ROMEO'S PARTNER...
Yoink
Yoink
Yoink
O-
OWW—W!!

SIGH—
WHY ARE THOSE TWO ACTING LIKE THAT?
THEY CAN'T HELP IT...
LOOKS LIKE THEY BOTH TO WANT TO PAIR UP WITH YOU.

MAYBE YOU'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM, HIROMI?
WELL... I DON'T THINK THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN OVERNIGHT... GIVEN BOTH OF THEIR PERSONALITIES...
I WISH THEY'D BE CONSIDERATE OF ME...
BUT EVERY SINGLE TIME ...?
Choose—...?
ROMEO!
I'M THE ONE THAT HAD TO GO!
WHY DON'T YOU GO BY YOURSELF!?
THE BATHROOM
WHERE'D YOU GO!? YOU DISAPPEARED ALL OF A SUDDEN!

—OH, THAT REMINDS ME. WHILE THAT BUTTINSKI'S NOT AROUND
COULD I GET YOUR CELL NUMBER, ROMEO—
HIROMI DOESN'T HAVE A CELL.
Who're you calling a buttinski?
...
SHE SAID SHE'D GET ONE WHEN SHE STARTS HIGH SCHOOL.
I DON'T REMEMBER ASKING YOU.
I SAID IT ONLY BECAUSE I KNOW, PLUS I WAS JUST TALKING TO MYSELF
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HIROMI, SENSEI WAS ASKING FOR YOU ABOUT THE PUBLIC MORALS COMMITTEE.
OH, OK. THEN LET'S GO.
Bleh
MAKI AND HIROMI ARE BOTH ON THE PUBLIC MORALS COMMITTEE
...TCH.

HEY, HIROMI?
DO YOU REMEMBER? WE STARTED HANGING OUT AFTER YOU SAVED ME FROM BULLIES BACK IN GRADE SCHOOL.
IS THAT SO?
YUP.
WE'RE BEST FRIENDS, RIGHT?
HM?
AND KOTOKO, TOO... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FIRST REACHED OUT TO HER WHEN SHE ENDED UP BY HERSELF 'CUZ SHE WAS SO QUIET.
OH YEAH.
YEAH!
YOU'RE QUITE A BUSYBODY, HIROMI, Y'KNOW.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SO— IT'S JUST LIKE THAT WITH JULI, TOO... RIGHT?

YOU TWO... WON'T BECOME MORE.. SPECIAL... THAN THE TWO OF US... RIGHT?
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD OR SOME-THING?
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING AT ALL.
FRIENDS ARE FRIENDS.
R-RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT—!
"SPECIAL" —...?

No way—...

ROMEO!
OK, SIT DOWN AND OPEN UP YOUR TEXTBOOKS, CLASS!
HEY...
HAVING A PRETTY FACE SURE IS AMAZING...
...
Fsh
ALL RIGHT, SATOU, TACKLE THIS ENGLISH SENTENCE.
YES SIR.

What's your favorite food, Romeo? Write it here ↓
...
MELON
I LIKE STRAWBERRIES ♥ SO WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

I like purple ♡
I know
Blue
Er. you know we're in the middle of class?
'CUZ EVERYONE ALWAYS CONGREGATES AROUND YOU DURING RECESS, ROMEO!
THEN WHY DON'T WE JUST DO THIS BETWEEN CLASSES?
...
I don't really care about anyone else
But then you could ask everyone else too?
FOCUS ON THE LESSON !!!
HEY!

* This is poem #40 from the Ogura Hyakunin isshu, or "Ogura Collection of 100 Poems" by Taira no Kanemori. Original translation

SHINO-BUREDO
THOUGH I TRY TO HIDE IT,
IRONI IDENI KERI WAGA-KOI WA
MY FACE BETRAYS THE LOVE THAT I FEEL
MONOYA OMOUTO
LEADING PEOPLE TO ASK
HITONO TOUMADE
"WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?"
WELL, IN SHORT, THIS POEM* IS TALKIN' ABOUT HOW YOU MIGHT THINK YOU'RE HIDIN' YOUR EMO-TIONS, BUT IT SHOWS UP QUITE OBVIOUSLY ON YOUR FACE.
TAIRA-NO-KANEMORI WROTE THIS—

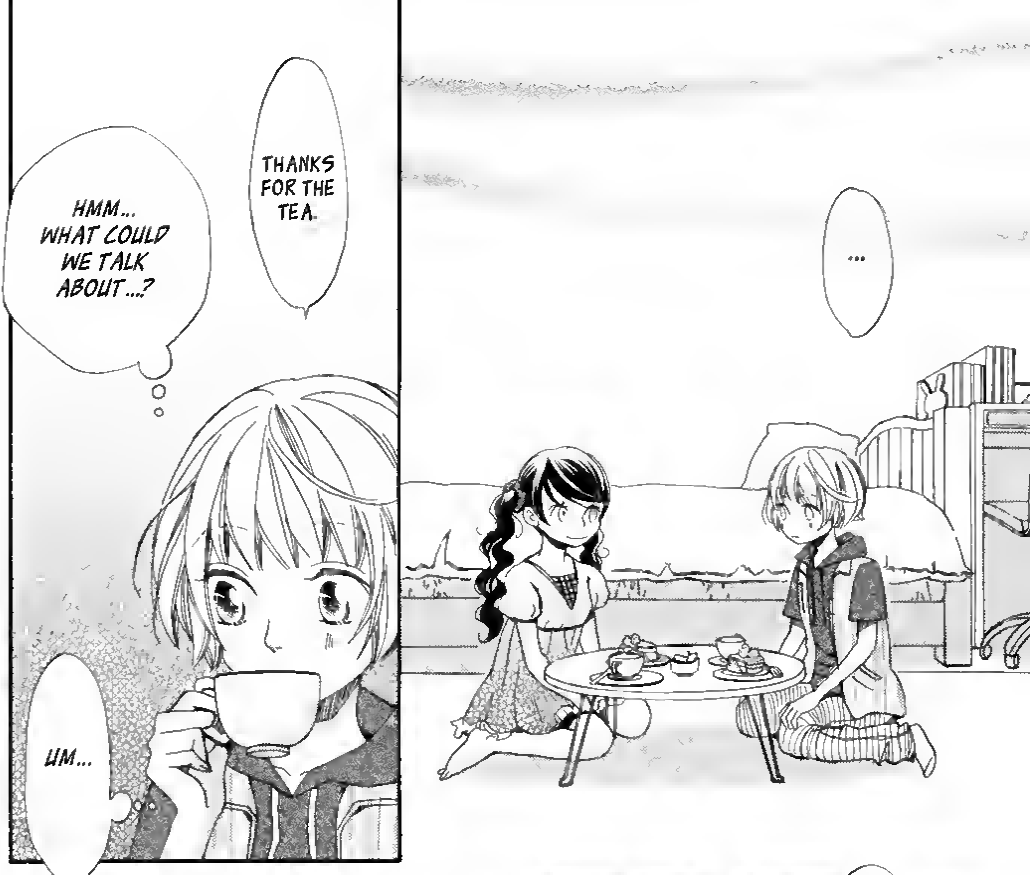
* This is poem #41 from the Ogura Hyakunin Isshu and was written by Mibu no Tadami

—...
Rustle
Let's go on a date Sunday
at my place
just the two of us
JULI

The Secret
(The) forbidden

WELCOME TO MY HOME, ROMEO.
COME ON
ROMEO.
OH, HELLO! THANKS FOR HAVING ME.
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M JULI'S MOTHER I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
OH, COULD THIS BE THE ONE AND ONLY ROMEO-CHAN?
MOM, LEAVE US ALONE!!

IT'S SURPRISINGLY AVERAGE —...
ROMEO,
WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE TEA OR COFFEE?
OH, UH... TEA, I GUESS.
MAMA, TWO TEAS, OK—!?
SHEESH ~~
TAKE YOUR TIME AND RELAX.


THANKS FOR THE TEA.
HMM... WHAT COULD WE TALK ABOUT...?
UM...
...

HUH-!? MY DAD'S A REGULAR SALARY-MAN~
I MEAN, WE JUST GOT TRANS-FERRED HERE, AFTER ALL.
WE'VE MOVED ABOUT FOUR TIMES SO FAR.
OH, IS THAT IT...
I—
IMAGINED YOUR PLACE TO BE A LOT MORE GORGEOUS AND FRILLY, JULI.
—LIKE YOUR FAMILY WAS RICH OR SOME-THING.

YOU LOOK SO COOL IN STREET CLOTHES, ROMEO!
...
WHAT ...?
Gaze
YOU TOO, JULI— ...
TOTALLY CUTE...
—ER, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
NOTHING.

TA-DAA!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S CUTE?
MAMA MADE IT.
UH... YEAH, IT'S CUTE.
IT LOOKS PERFECT FOR YOU, JULI.
IT'S ACTUALLY FOR YOU, ROMEO.
WHAH !?
I HAD MAMA MAKE US MATCHING DRESSES.
YOURS IS JUST A TAD BIIGGER THAN MINE.
C'MON, LET'S TRY THEM ON!

Y-YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT!!?
NO!! I'M NOT WEARING SUCH GIRLY CLOTHES !!!
HUNH —!?
HOW DARE YOU!
BUT MAMA WORKED SO HARD ON THESE...
AND SHE ASKED... TO SEE US WEARING THEM...
SHE'S GOING TO BE SO DISAP-POINTED...
...
FINE, FINE! I JUST NEED TO PUT IT ON, RIGHT!!?
ONLY THIS ONE TIME, THOUGH!
THANK YOU, ROMEO! ♥
SO, WHERE CAN I CHANGE?
WHY NOT RIGHT HERE? WE'RE BOTH GIRLS... WE COULD JUST CHANGE AT THE SAME TIME.

WAAH!
ROMEO, DO YOU ALWAYS WEAR A SPORTS BRA?
WHAT'S YOUR SIZE?
I-I DUNNO!
I WONDER IF WE'RE ABOUT THE SAME.
CAN I TOUCH YOU?
OF COURSE NOT!!
WHY NOT?
YOU CAN TOUCH MINE, TOO?
NO THANKS !!!

AIEEE!
Trace
I TOLD YOU, "NO!!"
YOUR SKIN'S SO SILKY SMOOTH, ROMEO.
YOU'RE REAL SENSITIVE, HUH.
I'M GONNA YELL !!
WAI...
SO WHAT ABOUT MY SKIN? HERE, FEEL IT.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...!!
かぁぁ FLUSH

GEEZ!
IF WE'RE NOT CHANG-ING, I'M NOT WEARING THAT DRESS!
OH!
TCH—
Snatch
Her skin was soft...
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
So pale—
...and silky soft—
...like your hand would stick on and get sucked in...
—"Soft"

Of the skin of someone other than myself.
Of Juli's—... skin—
I can't... get rid of the feel of it.
...
WOW,
YOU LOOK SO CUTE, ROMEO—
THERE ARE ALSO BARRETTES THAT GO WITH THE DRESSES.
SHALL WE PUT THEM ON?
...
SEE...?
LOOK, LOOK!

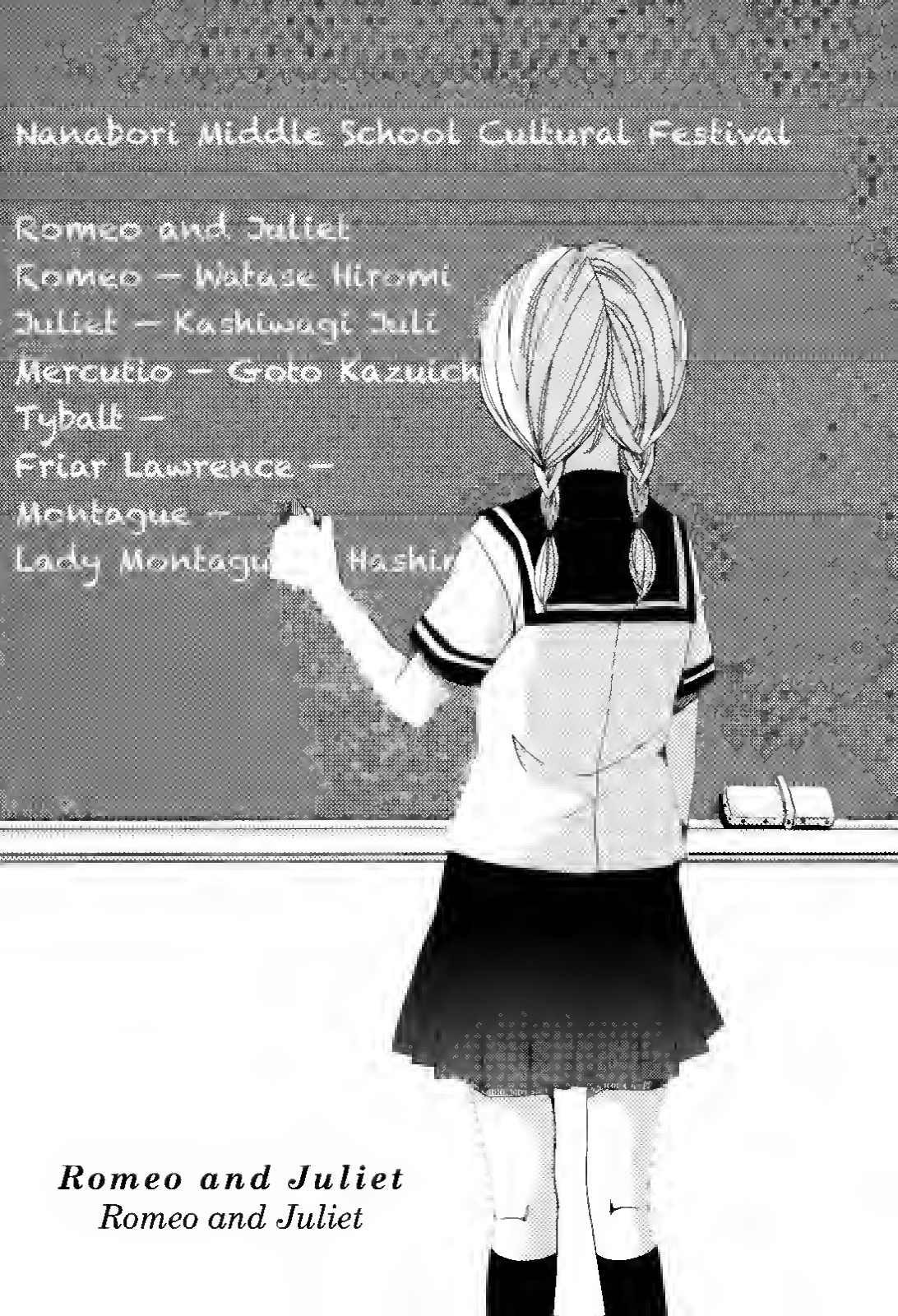
WE ARE ABSOLUTELY CUTILICIOUS!
YOU LOOK CUTE, JULI, BUT ME? I, UH—...
MAMA, COULD YOU TAKE A PICTURE OF US?
WHA-
MAMA!
NO WAY...

IT WAS BAD ENOUGH TO WEAR IT FOR AS LONG AS I DID!
BUT YOU'RE SO BORING, ROMEO, CHANGING BACK RIGHT AWAY LIKE YOU DID
It was so tedious wearing it alone, I changed back, too!
HERE'S THE PICTURE OF THE TWO OF US.
—...
YOU HAVE A PHOTO ALBUM?
WANNA SEE IT?
YEAH!
I'M GOING TO PASTE MY COPY OF OUR PHOTO IN MY PHOTO ALBUM~
NO, NO, IT JUST HAPPENED THAT
A-HA HA, WHAT'S THAT~
ROMEO-CHAN, YOU OUGHT TO STAY FOR DINNER~
YEAH, MAMA'S COOKING IS REALLY DELICIOUS!
BUT I DIDN'T TELL MY FAMILY— AND IT'S GETTING LATE, SO...
AAH~~ THAT'S TRUE
WELL THEN, JULI, WALK HER TO THE STATION, OK?
OKAY.

AWW, THE SUN'S TOTALLY SETTING ALREADY.
YOU SHOULD REALLY JUST STAY OVER TONIGHT.
BUT I DIDN'T PACK ANY CLOTHES OR ANY-THING,
AND IT'S NOT THAT DARK YET.
DID YOU HAVE FUN TODAY?
YUP. PLUS, I GOT TO SEE SOME AMUSING PHOTOS OF YOU AS A KID.
"AMUS-ING"...? YOU'RE AWFUL-!
COME OVER AGAIN SOMETIME?
SURE.
SLEEP-OVER NEXT TIME!!
IF MY PARENTS SAY IT'S OK.
PROMISE !!

THIS IS SO EM-BARRASS-ING.
'BYE, ROMEO— SEE YA—!
Sigh
—...

"Soft"



Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet

Grin
Grin
Sigh
SO WE REALLY ARE ROMEO AND JULIET, AFTER ALL!
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PRETTY MUCH FORCED THE DECISION TO GO THAT WAY
YEAH, NO ONE'D EVER WANT TO PUT THAT PLAY ON
NOT IN OUR CLASS.
BUT IF YOU PRINT OUT COPIES OF THE SCRIPT FOR THEM
THOSE LAZY BOYS WILL AGREE TO GO ALONG WITH IT.
EXCUSE ME! HMM, ER, WATASE-SAN PLUS ONE OTHER!
HELP ME COLLATE PHOTO-COPIES!

OH OK.
THEN ME AND—...
JULI'LL GO.
EHH— WHAT A BOTHER~~
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME ALONG.
JUST KIDDING! COMING—
DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE HIROMI AND JULI-CHAN HAVE GOTTEN A LOT CLOSER?
...
I HEARD THEY HUNG OUT QUITE A BIT OVER SUMMER BREAK.
REALLY!? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!!

HEY, HEY, ROMEO.
MAMA SAID SHE WAS GOING TO BAKE A CAKE SUNDAY.
WANT TO COME OVER?
MM...
WELL, I WAS THERE LAST WEEK AND THE WEEK BEFORE THAT, TOO—
SO I THINK I'LL HOLD OFF FOR A WHILE.
EHH ~~!?

During summer break—
Juli would call me all the time—
and we ended up meeting up a lot.
Though there weren't any more of—...
that kind of incident, since then—
SO COLLATE THOSE PHOTOCOPIES SEQUENTIALLY AND PUT THEM OVER THERE.
YES, MA'AM.
THIS IS SUCH A QUICK CHORE, SENSEI! SHOULD JUST DO IT HERSELF.
I'M SURE SHE'S GOT OTHER THINGS TO DO.

HEY,
WANT TO REHEARSE THE PLAY A BIT?
SIGH—
HUNH!?
NO ONE'S AROUND
AND I'VE GOT THE SCRIPT.
WHY'D YOU BRING THAT WITH YOU!!?
WELL THEN,
LET'S START:
WAIT A SEC!
HERE...
'ROMEO'

O--- SWEAR NOT BY THE MOON,
THE IN- CONSTANT MOON, THAT MONTHLY CHANGES IN HER CIRCLED ORB,
LEST THAT THY LOVE PROVE LIKEWISE VARI- ABLE.
WHAT SHALL I SWEAR BY?
ER, UH... LADY, BY YONDER BLESSED MOON I SWEAR
IF THOU DOST LOVE, PRO- NOUNCE IT FAITH- FULLY.
OR, IF THOU WILT--- SWEAR BY THY GRACIOUS SELF,
DO NOT SWEAR AT ALL;

WHICH IS THE GOD OF MY IDOLATRY,
...MY PRINCE.
HIROMI—!

MAKI ...!!
—I...I THOUGHT I'D LEND YOU A HAND, TOO...
OH, YEAH?
THEN I THINK I'LL HEAD BACK, OKAY?
SO MAKI, IF YOU COULD JUST DO THESE..

MAKI?
OH, NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL.
TH-THOSE, RIGHT?
...

2-B

—and so...

A Viaduct to Tomorrow
未来への架け橋
Cultural Festival
文化祭
Knitted Stuffed Animals
編みぐるみ
Exhibition of Works
作品展示

Whah
HOW COOL ~~!
...
I THOUGHT SO BACK DURING THE FITTING, TOO..
BUT YOU LOOK AWE-SOME!
WELL, YOU DID WORK REAL HARD ON THAT OUTFIT AFTER ALL, MAKI.
HEY, HEY, JULI LOOKS REALLY PRETTY, TOO!

SHE DOES SEEM LIKE A PRIN-CESS!
SHE COULD BE A FOR IDOL!
WOW!
SHE LOOKS TOTALLY DIFFERENT WITH MAKE-UP ON
...
SHE'S SO CUTE—!
バタバタ step step
YES, YES!
HEY THERE, YOU NEED TO START GATHERING BACK-STAGE!

YOU LOOK FANTASTIC, ROMEO!
YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE YOURSELF, JULI
HEH HEH HEH.
WHICH MEANS WE'RE WELL-MATCHED, RIGHT,
MY PRINCE?

PRINCE...
HUH...
ロミオとジュリエット
Romeo and Juliet
"Romeo and Juliet" is a tale of unrequited love——...
Of two from feuding families who meet without knowing each other's names
and end up falling in love —
O ROMEO, ROMEO! WHEREFORE ART THOU ROMEO?
A tragic tale of star-crossed lovers—
ロミオとジュリエット

...and mistakenly thinking Juliet to be truly dead, Romeo —...
Juliet enters a death-like state upon Friar Laurence's advice—
However, the message fails to reach its target..
And at the tale's climax —...
AND THIS DISTILLED LIQUOR DRINK THOU OFF; SHALL ROMEO BEAR THEE HENCE TO MANTUA.
...him-self drinks poison —
And later,
Juliet awakens to discover the lifeless Romeo—

TO HELP ME AFTER?
O CHURL! DRUNK ALL, AND LEFT NO FRIENDLY DROP
POISON, I SEE, HATH BEEN HIS TIMELESS END:
I WILL KISS THY LIPS;
HAPLY SOME POISON YET DOTH HANG ON THEM,
OH!
—...

~~ HNNH
Shove

AH!

—...
WE'RE
FINISH-
ED

Blue Mind
Clear Heart

MY HEAD HURTS.
HIROMI!
YOU NEED TO GO TO SCHOOL TODAY!!
...
MAKI-CHAN'S HERE, TOO!
THOSE KIND OF LIES WON'T WORK ANY-MORE!
I feigned illness to stay home from school for a week—
—it's been a week since that incident at the Cultural Festival—
And most of all —...
I didn't want to hear anything from anyone—

OH, HIROMI!
...That was —...
...I didn't want to see Juli —
WHY'D YOU COME PICK ME UP?
I WAS JUST SLEEPING OFF A COLD.
S- SORRY.
BUT YOU WOULDN'T TAKE MY CALLS..
AND UM, WELL, I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW—

Pink
LEZBO.
GET TOO CLOSE, AND SHE'LL PLANT A KISS ON YOU!
THANKS TO YOU-KNOW-WHO, OUR PLAY WAS TOTALLY RUINED!
AND WHAT'S WITH HER BEING COMPLETELY UNREPENTANT ABOUT IT!?
Gross
Lezzie

HEY, HEY, SHE'S TOTALLY IGNORING US—
YOU KNOW HOW—...
JULI DIDN'T HAVE A FRIENDLY PERSONALITY TO BEGIN WITH?
—THAT SEEMS TO HAVE JUST SET OFF EVERYONE, AND—...
—...WHAT ABOUT YOU AND KOTOKO, MAKI...?
HUH? ...WELL, JULI'S NOT AS TALKATIVE WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND, YOU SEE, AND—
I— NEVER LIKED JULI TO BEGIN WITH, EITHER—
B-BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D HATE IT IF I DIDN'T DO SOMETHING, SO I,
I—...

Geez— what is wrong with me?
Running off on my own—...
HIROMI !!
Worrying only about myself—
And not even a bit...
...about Juli—...

One week—

While I ran away,
she remained alone—
stoic and unyielding —...
Slam
Has Juli been putting up with everything all by herself
with a straight spine, this whole time?
I'd abandoned Juli—...
'MORNING!

I AM SO BEHIND NOW.
SHOW ME YOUR NOTES LATER?
I NEED TO CATCH UP!
...
HUH?

UNH
AY
UNH
AY
AIEE—
AIEE—
AIEE—
AIEE—
AIEE—
SORRY—!
—UH
AIEE—

I TAKE IT BACK ABOUT US BEING FINISHED.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE RIGHT HERE WITH YOU—
...
That night—

Recalling Juli's quivering shoulders—
How she felt in my arms—
My heart was beating fiercely, loudly.
Her tear-streaked face—...
...
Was I—... princely enough?
Or like a knight defending a princess?

—...
In that moment— I actually...
...hadn't disliked it—
I'd just been startled by the feel of "lips"—
IT WAS KIND OF SQUISHY, AFTER ALL.
The reason why I didn't want to see her—
...was 'cause I was scared.

Of admitting to myself—
...that I loved Juli—

The Honeymoon
Honey moon

JULI-CHAAAN!
So cute!
Fweet
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
NO CLUE.
HE'S A THIRD YEAR. HE THOUGHT JULI WAS CUTE AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
HE EVEN ASKED HER OUT, THE OTHER DAY.
REALLY?
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN HIM.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, MAKI RECENTLY STARTED DATING A SECOND-YEAR BOY, TOO.
OHH, SO THAT'S WHY SHE HASN'T BEEN AROUND MUCH LATELY.
HUH?

ME?
I, UH—
EHH~
WHAT IS WRONG WITH HER?
BOYS ARE ANNOYING, AND THERE AREN'T ANY DECENT ONES. NO THANKS!
I'D RATHER STICK WITH GIRLS!!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HIROMI?
...like Juli—
I-...
I DUNNO!
AAH, I SWEAR YOU PAUSED FOR A SECOND THERE!
IS THERE SOME BOY YOU LIKE, PERHAPS!?
FLUSTERED!! OOH, SUSPICIOUS —!
N-NO, THERE ISN'T !!!
...

ROMEO, LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER TODAY.
—SURE.
Recently—... Juli and I have been going home, just the two of us, a lot...
CAN WE HOLD HANDS?
NO.
AWW...
—ALL RIGHT, BUT ONLY WHERE THERE'S NO ONE AROUND

HOLDING HANDS IN A PLACE LIKE THIS IS FUN FOR YOU...?
TOTALLY FUN—!
IT'S FUN WHEREVER WE ARE, AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU, ROMEO~~
SHE REALLY IS CUTE.
Whirl
Smirk
WH-WHAT!?
WERE YOU JUST THINKING THAT I'M CUTE?
—... MAY-BE.
THAT I'M REALLY CUTE?
... MAYBE.

WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!!?
WHAT IF SOMEONE SEES US—...!?
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND.
HUH?
YOU KISS ME NOW, ROMEO!
PLEASE ♥

Oh...
...
...
I-I CAN'T!!
AYWAY, THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO DO IT!
C'MON, LET'S GO HOME.
EHH—

WHAT'S WRONG?
MAKI
WAIT UP~
PHEW— ... THAT WAS... KIND OF CLOSE...
A boy and a girl...
That's what's normal...
WHAT BAD TASTE!
I just don't get it!!

YOU'RE MY ONE AND ONLY PRINCE, ROMEO.
Time flew by, the season turning to full winter—
and with it, the arrival of Christmas time—

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE WITH YOUR LOVER, DID YOU KNOW THAT?
Merry Christmas
I spent Christmas at Juli's place.
YEAH ...?
Juli, in her usual abrupt way—
HEY, CAN I KISS YOU ON THE CHEEK?
O-OKAY ...
—...
...
smooch

WILL YOU LET ME TOUCH YOU
JUST A LITTLE BIT...?
...
—OKAY.
—IT'S CHILLY...

WANT TO TAKE A HOT BATH TOGETHER?
NOW YOU'RE NOT COLD, RIGHT?
...
I still didn't have the nerve to touch her myself..
BECAUSE IT JUST FEELS LIKE I'M DOING SOMETHING TABOO...

It was enough... merely watching Juli breathe...
...and staring at her skin—....
New Year's Eve, too...
And the New Year's morning shrine visit—
Our entire winter break—

...to red—
...from when the sky shifted from blue...
...until the moon and stars came out...
SEE YOU TOMORROW, AGAIN?
...all that time we just spent togeth-er—

The Sky's Whereabouts

[lost] Sky-blue

I'M GOING TO PREPARE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR FEBRUARY 14TH, SO LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
THAT'S FINE, BUT,
LET'S STUDY RIGHT NOW.
EH-
SINCE FINALS ARE APPROACHING.*
I WANT TO GO TO TOKYO FANTASYLAND FOR SPRING BREAK~ ♥
THERE'S STUFF I WANT TO GET THERE~ ♥
FOCUS!!
WAAH...

* Finals are approaching in February because the Japanese school year goes from April to March

OKAY, OKAY, I'LL FOCUS, SO—
CAN I BORROW YOUR HAND FOR A SECOND,
ROMEO ...?
Smooch
Nibble
WHAT —...
SOWWY!!
WANT ME TO HIT YOU!?
Such exchanges have become a fact of life now—...
though I'm amazed that I've accepted it...

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY~!
HIROMI~!
UH, THANKS.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...
WELL, WE GAVE YOU STUFF LAST YEAR, TOO, SO...
WE STILL WANT TO TAKE PART IN THE TRADITION
There aren't any boys I like, any way, so
HIROMI~ I HAVE CHOCOLATE FOR YOU, TOO!
EHH~?
SINCE YOU WERE TOTALLY COOL AS "ROMEO."
YOU SHOULD DRESS AS A BOY AGAIN SOME-TIME
HA HA HA

WO-W
...
I THINK YOU GOT MORE THAN ANY OF THE BOYS!
—...
HIROMI
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU. COULD YOU COME WITH ME?

I.. WANTED TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
WHAT IS IT? BRINGING ME UP HERE, AND YOU'RE SO SERIOUS, TOO.
YEAH...
BUT... EVERYONE ELSE GAVE ME THEIR GIFTS IN THE CLASS-ROOM?
YOU USUALLY DO, TOO, MAKI—
BUT MINE HAS A DIFFERENT MEANING THAN THEIRS.
HUH?
I... IT'S THAT... I LIKE YOU A LOT, HIROMI.
—AND NOT AS A FRIEND .....

I DATED HIM ONLY BECAUSE HE ASKED ME OUT—...
BUT IT WAS A BUST.
I ONLY SEE STUFF THAT I DON'T LIKE.
...HUH?
—BUT... MAKI, YOU'RE— ...
YOU LIKE JULI, DON'T YOU, HIROMI.
I CAN TELL. I'VE BEEN WATCH-ING YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
I KNOW.
...
BUT, I—...

I REALIZED IT WHEN I SAW YOU HUGGING HER—...
..AFTER THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL, AS SHE CRIED IN OUR CLASS-ROOM, ...
THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR ME IN THERE, AT ALL—
I EVEN KIND OF HOPED THAT IF I WENT OUT WITH A BOY, YOU'D GET JEALOUS...
...AND COME AFTER ME...
BUT I KNEW IT WAS FUTILE...
THAT'S WHY
I JUST WANTED TO COME OUT AND SAY IT, AND GET DUMPED.
I LOVE YOU, HIROMI...

—...I'M SORRY
THAT I CAN'T SEE YOU THE SAME WAY..
IT'S OKAY.
I FIGURED AS MUCH.
HEH.
I'M SORRY TO HAVE SAID SOMETHING AWKWARD...
Fsh
—THANK YOU.
—I DO LOVE YOU, MAKI—... AS A FRIEND...
YEAH...
...YEAH...
!

WHOA!
YOU'RE COLD!
WERE YOU OUT-SIDE!?
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, HIROMI?
Huh? Wasn't Maki with you?
OH, AND JULI-CHAN'S NOT HERE YET.
GIVEN HOW LATE IT IS, SHE MIGHT BE TAKING THE DAY OFF.
...
—all of a sudden
I really wanted to see Juli—

JULI-CHAN NEVER SHOWED UP TODAY, DID SHE—
MAYBE SHE HAS A COLD?
BUT SHE WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO VALENTINE'S DAY!
I THOUGHT SHE'D DRAG HERSELF IN EVEN IF SHE WEREN'T FEELING WELL.
...
Maybe I'll call her when I get home...

WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL
AND NOW YOU'RE WAITING IN FRONT OF MY HOME —...
JULI !!!
Thump
Glom

OH...!
WHAT —...
PAPA'S BEING TRANS-FERRED ...
HE STARTS IN APRIL.

I...
I HATE IT!
...DON'T WANT TO SWITCH SCHOOLS!
I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU, ROMEO —...

Key of Heart
(Be) locked up in Love
Juli and I set out on a trip to make memories —...
駅 公園口
STATION

YES, MA'AM
AND DON'T TAG ALONG AFTER STRANGERS, YOU HEAR!?
I'VE GOT A DEADLINE, SO I CAN'T GO WITH YOU TWO
BUT MAKE SURE YOU COME HOME BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE!!
C'MON, WE'RE NOT CHILDREN, WE'LL BE FINE
WILL IT REALLY BE OKAY—?
SHE'S A NOVELIST, RIGHT?
I'D LOVE TO READ HER WORKS !!
HEY, HEY, YOUR AUNT'S AWESOME, ROMEO.
OK-AY
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

I FEEL LIKE YOUR AUNT GIVES OFF THE SAME VIBE AS ME.
—WHAT!?
TEE HEE
REALLY —?
I READ SOME WHEN I WAS A KID.
THEY WERE SO COMPLEX, I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THEM.
HEY, HEY, LET'S HOLD HANDS~!
NO, NOT IN PUBLIC!!! IT'S EMBARRASSING!!
BUT THEY SAY "ONCE OVER THE BORDER, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING."
BESIDES, NO ONE'S WATCHING—!!
WHAT A CUTE GIRL
SHE'S REALLY CUTE...
YES THEY ARE WATCHING!!
I'M SO HAPPY I GET TO GO TO FANTASYLAND WITH YOU, ROMEO!
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I REALLY WANT, THERE. ♥

THERE!
OVER HERE, OVER HERE
THAT!
—KEYS?
YOU BUY THESE OTHER ATTACHING PIECES SEPARATELY TO SPELL OUT YOUR NAME
LET'S MAKE MATCHING ONES!!

YOU SEE,
YOU CAN ALSO FIT THEM TOGETHER LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND
ALSO—

Clik
I JUST LOCKED YOUR HEART, ROMEO.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN OPEN IT NOW.
ONLY ME.
...
UH—...
I-I...
I WANT TO LOCK YOURS, TOO—...!
I'M PARCHED—.
CAN WE GO GET A DRINK?

IT'S LIKELY TO GO LATE, YOU KNOW?
DO YOU THINK WE CAN STAY THROUGH THE PARADE?
BUT I WANT TO SEE IT SO BADLY.
HURRY~!
...
REALLY? YAY—!
Then let's stay—♥
SHE'LL FORGIVE US RIGHT AWAY IF WE APOLOGIZE.
I THINK IT'LL BE FINE
SINCE MY AUNT'S NOT THAT FUSSY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT...
...would have liked to—...
But I really...
WE HAVE TO BE UP FRONT!
WE NEED TO GO GRAB A SPOT—!!
WELL, SHE'LL PROBABLY STILL GET MAD AT US, BUT...

...lock Juli's heart up, too...
GEEZ!! I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET BACK TOO LATE!!
SORRY
FINE, VERY WELL.
HURRY UP AND TAKE YOUR BATH— ...
AND GO TO SLEEP.
YOU'RE RIGHT! ♥ SHE FOR-GAVE US RIGHT AWAY! ♥

WHY DON'T YOU GO TO BED~~?
HEH HEH
HEY, NO FAIR —!
NO WAY!
LET'S WASH EACH OTHER!
ARE YOU ASLEEP, ROMEO?
MM— ...? NO, NOT YET.
I HAVE TO GO HOME TOMORROW.
YEAH...
...
sniff

SNIFF
ぐす。
I... DON'T WANT TO GO...
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU...!
JU...
NO!
I DON'T WANT TO!
I KNOW YOU'LL FORGET ABOUT ME IF WE'RE APART.
I CAN'T BEAR IT.
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU FOR-EVER.
'CUZ, 'CUZ...

...I... LOVE YOU.
YOU'RE MY PRINCE...
—...
Grrk
ギュッ

...
—DON'T CRY...
...IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT. I'LL ALWAYS—

...RIGHT AWAY...
MMM!?
WHOA!
MM...
SO WARM!
Let's e-mail each other every day.
Meet up every holiday and break.

...we're going to be together forever—
I can't imagine us being apart—

The Promise
for sorairo-girlfriend*

I'm 17 years old now.
聖リリス女学院
Sign: Saint Lilith Girl's Academy
It's been four years since then—
PHEW—
THIS HILL ALWAYS TIRES ME OUT.
I REALLY MADE A MISTAKE CHOOSING THIS SCHOOL.
'MORNING, ROMEO!
OH, 'MORNING.

OH, MORNING
GOOD MORNING TO YOU, ROMI-SAMA.
HNH—
I HEAR WE'RE GETTING A TRANSFER STUDENT TODAY.
WHAT A REALLY WEIRD SCHOOL.
I'M NOT THAT CRAZY ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE SO POPULAR, ROMI!
And it was only another half-year before I started thinking "I guess that's it."
the "girl" I liked, within 6 months.
I ended up losing touch with Ju...

'MORN-ING.
OH, 'MORN-ING.
HEY, HAVE THE TWO OF YOU HEARD?
ワイ
Clamor
ワイ
Clamor
?
HEARD WHAT?
THE CLASS NEXT DOOR IS SUPPOSED TO BE REAL COOL
THAT THE STUDENT TRANSFERRING INTO
"REAL COOL" ...?
BUT SHE'S A GIRL, RIGHT?
Well, probably it means she's beautiful
APPARENTLY, SOMEONE SAW HER IN THE STAFF ROOM, AND
EVERY-ONE'S ABUZZ!
YOUR POPULARITY MAY BE IN DANGER TOO, YOU KNOW, ROMI.

I really, truly don't care.
I'd left all of my heart on the other side of that door.
THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY.
OHH...
THE CLASS-ROOM'S BEEN SWITCHED FOR NEXT PERIOD.
SLEEPY.
YOU REALLY ARE INDIFFERENT ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, AREN'T YOU.

THAT'S WHY YOU END UP GETTING CALLED THE ICE PRINCE AND SUCH.
...COULD YOU PLEASE NOT CALL ME THAT...?
It just sounds weird, however you look at it
WHY DON'T YOU GET INVOLVED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES? LIKE MY CLUB!!
THE HANDICRAFTS CLUB WILL WARM ME UP?
~~
WELL THEN... MM...
WHAT ABOUT FALLING IN LOVE~~?
...
SHE'S SO PRETTY!
DON'T YOU THINK?
WHOA!
...
SHE'S JUST TOO BEAUTIFUL!
AND SO TALL~
LIKE A BLACK ROSE PRINCE!

I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED ~
WANT TO CHECK HER OUT?
THEY'RE PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT THAT TRANSFER STUDENT.
WHAT THE-?
AAH...
STOP CROWDING ME!!
THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY !!!
HUNH ...?
I TOLD YOU, THERE'S SOME-WHERE I WANT TO GO!!

—Ju...
Juli ...!!!
OH!

Dash
Grab
...

Pant
Pant

I WANTED TO SEE YOU SO BADLY—!
Pant
Pant
I TRIED TO COME TO YOU BEFORE THIS, ROMEO,
BUT EVERYONE WAS IN MY WAY.
YOU LOOK SHOCKED!
SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED...
BUT, I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
A lot—...

...but I didn't know where to start, either —...
Like "why?" and "what happened?" ... there was so much I wanted to ask—...
A lot of words came to mind and then died out, again and again.
MY CLASS-MATES,
THEY CALLED YOU "REAL COOL."
THEY WERE ALL BUZZING WITH IT.
OH, REALLY?
WEIRD.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ANY OF THAT.
Juli's—
DID YOU... GET TALLER?
OH, YEAH.

...the same old Juli—
'CUZ YOU'RE MY ONLY PRINCE, ROMEO.
She says the words I most want to hear—
I NEVER FORGOT ABOUT YOU FOR ONE SECOND.
I LOVE YOU, ROMEO!

Just now—...

...was unlocked and opened up—

...my heart—

sorairo
girl
friend

QUICK GLANCE

She-Romeo
Little girl [Romeo]

Middle School Diary
Blue Diary

The Secret
(The) forbidden

Romeo and Juliet
Romeo and Juliet

Blue Mind
Clear Heart

The Honeymoon
Honey moon

The Sky's Whereabouts
[lost] Sky-blue

Key of Heart
(Be) locked up in Love

The Promise
*for sorairo-girlfriend**

an afterword All of you...

Originally written/drawn for phone comics format

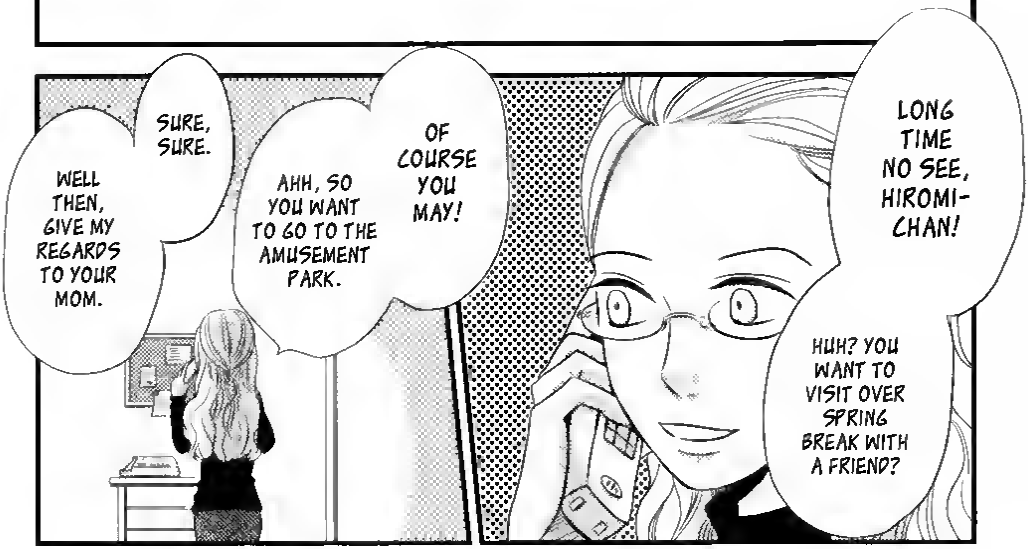
Around the time of spring's arrival
[before] Key of Heart

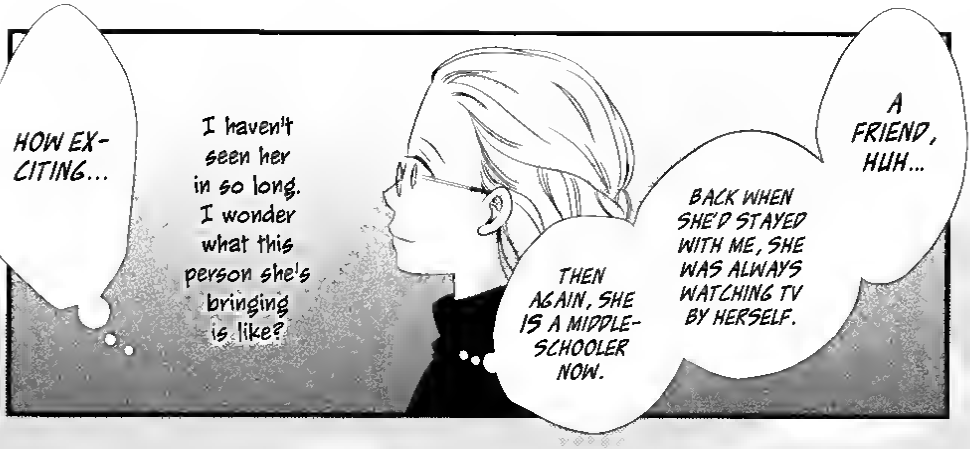
My niece Hiromi-chan is the daughter of my older sister

and I'd looked after her a few times, back when she was in grade school.

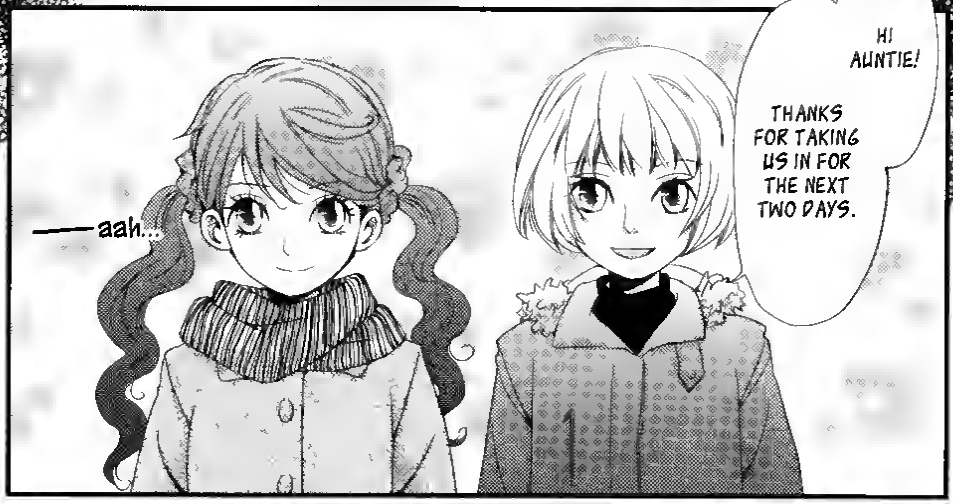
It's been 4 to 5 years already since the last time I saw her.

Time is frozen in my mind, with the image of her still as a young child.


LONG TIME NO SEE, HIROMI-CHAN!
HUH? YOU WANT TO VISIT OVER SPRING BREAK WITH A FRIEND?
OF COURSE YOU MAY!
AHH, SO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK.
SURE, SURE.
WELL THEN, GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR MOM.


HOW EXCITING...
I haven't seen her in so long. I wonder what this person she's bringing is like?
THEN AGAIN, SHE IS A MIDDLE-SCHOOLER NOW.
BACK WHEN SHE'D STAYED WITH ME, SHE WAS ALWAYS WATCHING TV BY HERSELF.
A FRIEND, HUH...

And then...



...pale, fleeting flowers are blooming.

Girls begin to bud and sprout in grade and middle schools. Back when their bodies are still like sticks or rods. When they don't yet have any fat that will give them curves, their bodies are lithe, and they can leap high. When they have few impurities.

It sure is difficult to depict waves and impulses of emotion such as tears, laughter, and rage. I wish I could depict them better.

That's about it (LOL).

Now then, as always, I received a lot of assistance with this manga.
Principal backgrounds, hair glossing and coloring in, etc. / Nakazawa-san
Other backgrounds and miscellaneous / All of my temp assistants
Finishing touches / K Kawa-san, S Ki-son, Ten K-san, all my other temp assistants

I had my editor N-san come up with the title (LOL)
Thank you very much!

↓This is mainly an informational website. It is rarely updated.
http://rikachi.blog.shinobi.jp/

Thank you so very much for picking up a copy if this book!

Sorairo Girlfriend
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